

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a split bearing arrangement, in which in several machining stations a top bearing part is separated in a predefined fracture plane from a base bearing part monolithically connected thereto via a fracture separation process by applying force, ~~whereupon the two parts are joined back together by means of a screw connection comprising at least two screws, comprising:~~

the base bearing part and the top bearing part are fixed on an adapter device that is conveyed from one machining station to another while the top bearing part is retained at least during some processes in the machining stations via a retractable auxiliary support disposed on the adapter device and engaging the top bearing part ~~outside the area of the screw connection,~~

the base bearing part and the top bearing part are subjected to a release and cleaning process in the fracture plane after the fracture separation process, and

the location of the top bearing part is ~~accurately~~ fixed, by a fixing means including holding pins, in position in parallel to the fracture plane with respect to the base bearing part during the release and cleaning process, whilst the top bearing part is held by the fixing means in a loose manner in a direction perpendicular to the fracture plane, whereupon the base bearing part and the top bearing part are finally joined back together following the release and cleaning process by a screw connection comprising at least two screws.

2. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein the base bearing part is clamped to the adapter device in all the machining stations.
3. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein there are main supports acting resiliently upon the top bearing part during the fracture separation process.
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein the release process is carried out by vibrating or impacting action.
6. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning process is carried out by blowing, suctioning or brushing off.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein a fracture separation groove is incorporated in the fracture plane by a laser prior to the fracture separation process.
9. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein the screws are inserted and tightened at a predetermined torque after the release and cleaning process.
10. (Previously presented) The method as according to claim 1, wherein the conveyance of the adapter device to and from the individual machining stations is carried out via a carousel arrangement.
11. (Withdrawn) A device for producing a split bearing arrangement, in which the workpiece consisting of a base bearing part and a top bearing part monolithically connected thereto is conveyed at least to a fracture separation station for separating the top bearing part from the base bearing part along a fracture plane and to a screwing station for joining back together the top bearing part and the base bearing part by means of at least a screw connection comprising two screws,

a transport mechanism is provided, via which an adapter device supporting the workpiece is conveyed from one machining station to at least one subsequent machining station, with said adapter device being equipped with a retractable auxiliary support which is fixed to said

adapter device so as to engage the top bearing part of the workpiece outside the screw connection, and

a release and cleaning station is provided following the fracture separation station, in which a fixing means is provided for an accurate fixation in location in parallel to the fracture plane and for a loose hold in a direction perpendicular to the fracture plane.

12. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 2, wherein clamping cylinders interacting with counterstops are arranged on the adapter device for clamping the base bearing part to said adapter device.
13. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 3, wherein main supports are provided in the fracture separation station, which are brought into resilient abutment against the top bearing part during the fracture separation process.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 5, wherein the release and cleaning station is equipped with a vibration or impacting device which acts upon the top bearing part.
16. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 6, wherein the release and cleaning station is equipped with a blowing, suctioning or brush device.
17. (Cancelled)

18. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11, wherein the fixing means comprises fixing and holding pins which can be inserted into the bores for the screws.
19. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 18 for a screw connection comprising two screws, wherein two fixing and holding pins are provided, which are linked together at one end via a yoke.
20. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 19, wherein the yoke is connected to a feed cylinder.
21. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 8, wherein a laser station is provided before the fracture separation station.
22. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 9, wherein a screwing station is provided after the release and cleaning station, in which screwing station the screws are inserted and tightened at a predetermined torque via a screwing device.
23. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 11 for carrying out the method as according to claim 10, wherein the transport mechanism is essentially designed as a carousel arrangement, with the machining stations being distributed about its periphery.
24. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 23, wherein a loading and unloading station, a laser station, a fracture separation station, a release and cleaning station, as well as a screwing station are provided in the region of the carousel arrangement.

25. (Withdrawn) The production device as according to claim 24, wherein the loading and unloading station, the screwing station and the laser station, as well as the fracture separation station and the release and cleaning station are each combined into a double station.